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## WORK OF ZAGREB COURTS IN 1951

At a meeting of the Zagreb People's Council on 26 February, Dr Zarko Vimpulsek, president of the Circuit Court, reported on the work of Zagreb's Circuit Court and srez courts in 1951.

In 1951, Zagreb courts considered over 108,000 cases and rendered decisions in over 103,000; the remainder were carried over to 1952.

The work of the Circuit Court was concentrated chiefly on first and second-degree criminal and civil cases, 6,710 of which were resolved. There were 145 more first-degree criminal cases in 1951 than in 1950. A total of 850 persons were sentenced, while 574 cases were appealed; half of them were refused. The judgments in 223 cases were altered by the Supreme Court, with 149 of the cases resulting in increased penalties and 95 of the judgments being reversed. Half of these cases were decided in one month, while the others required from 2 to 3 months, sometimes because of poor investigations.

There were considerably more criminal acts against private property than against general people's or state property, while the number of acts against the people and the state were insignificant. Some lengthy sentences were imposed as well as some death penalties, but the majority of sentences were for one to 3 years at hard labor or were ordinary jail sentences. The medium sentence of 7 to 10 years was seldom given.

The Circuit Court expedited the hearing of second-degree criminal cases, deciding 80 percent of them in one month. The Circuit Court, a court of appeal from the srez courts, ruled on appeals from sentences of the srez courts. A considerable number of the srez court sentences were reversed.

The Circuit Court accepted 847 first-degree civil cases, 500 of which pertained to social security of workers. There were also a number of cases of controversies between workers and enterprises, but in these the Circuit Court did not always act with satisfactory speed, even though the cases involved the rights of workers and should have been decided without delay. The section concerned with hearing civil cases is considerably behind, mainly because only one judge was handling such cases at the end of the year.

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Almost 2,800 second-degree civil cases were accepted in 1951, or 737 more than in 1950. The duration of the action in these cases was also unsatisfactory with many of the cases requiring more than 6 months to decide.

In 1950, 5,447 cases were decided by the Circuit Cou., or 2,000 less than in 1951. All this was done by 30 Judges and 44 administrative officials.

The work of the jurors (449 from Zagreb and 219 from the former Zagreb Oblast) was satisfactory. Jurors were called in 2,713 instances and their participation in resolving disputes was very helpful.

Three srez courts in Zagreb accepted 101,039 cases in 1951, and disposed of 96,911. There were 30,000 more cases in these courts than in 1950.

An especially large number of criminal cases were private suits for insults and slander. There were 12,000 trial actions in private suits, or twice as many as in 1950. Among civil cases there were a considerable number of divorce actions. Srez courts granted 1,231 divorces in 1951, most of them dissolving marriages which had lasted from 2 to 5 years, and marriages in which there was no issue. Many actions pertained to evictions and other housing matters. During its 1951 work, the court noted that housing commissions in individual rajons do not respect the decrees of srez courts in housing matters. For example, 80 decrees of the court were not enforced in the second rajon, 68 in the fourth rajon, 60 in the fifth rajon, and 57 in the third rajon.

In 1951, the number of judges in the srez courts of Zagreb increased from 31 to 38, as did the number of officials. However, a still greater number of judges are needed.

The Ministry of Justice plans to fuse the srez courts of Zagreb into a single srez court for more effective operation and to achieve considerable savings in administrative functioning.

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